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**SPECIAL.**

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## HOW SOUTHERN FARMERS MAY GET A START IN PIG RAISING.

PREPARED IN THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

The Irishman calls his pig "the gentleman that pays the rint." In the corn belt of the United States "mortgage lifters" was a nickname given hogs almost as soon as settlements began. In the South no less true than in the Middle West hogs can be made a source of meat supply for the home and of income as well. Years of study and demonstration by State and Federal agricultural authorities have shown beyond all doubt that hogs may be raised in the South with results fully as profitable as elsewhere.

Four things are necessary if the southern farmer wishes to get a start.

1. A place to raise and fatten the pigs.
2. A pig worth raising and fattening.
3. Feed on which to raise and fatten them.
4. The necessary funds.

Let us consider these points in reverse order.

1. This article is written for the man whose principal concern is to supply food for his family. For such a man one or two sows will be enough. Good grade sows can be bought for \$10 or \$15 each; razorbacks can be bought for less and will produce good pigs if bred to a good purebred boar. If there is no purebred boar in the neighborhood whose services can be obtained, enough men should club together to represent the ownership of 20 to 25 sows and buy a good boar, paying pro rata for the boar, depending on the number of sows owned by each. Boars can be bought for from \$10 to \$25 for weaned pigs, and from \$50 to \$100 for yearling and 2-year-old hogs. If 20 men owning 20 sows bought a yearling boar for \$50, each man would pay \$2.50 toward the price of the boar. Put the boar in the hands of one of the members of the club and let each other member agree to pay him one pig at weaning time for the care of the boar for one year, for attending to the breeding, etc. When sows come in heat, they can be loaded on a wagon and carried to the farm where the boar is kept for service.

2. Sows farrow almost exactly 16 weeks after they are bred. When the sow farrows try to be near at hand. Do not worry her with

NOTE.—Intended for farmers in the cotton belt who desire to diversify their farming because of the economic crisis which adversely affects the cotton crop at this time.

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attention, but be there if she needs it. Watch that the buzzards do not carry off the little pigs or injure the sow. Give her a warm thin slop as soon as she begins to move around. Then leave her alone for a while. That evening give her a slop with a little bran or corn meal in it. Feed lightly for a few days and increase her feed gradually until the sow is getting about 4 pounds of grain each day for each 100 pounds of her weight. This will be within a week or 10 days after she has farrowed. She should be fed morning and evening. Kitchen scraps and slops will be good for her and will reduce the grain needed somewhat. These slops must not contain any soap or glass.

As corn is the most available grain in most sections of the South, it will have to be relied on for feeding both the sows and pigs. With the grazing crops which are suggested for hogs a fairly well-balanced ration will be obtained.

When you are about ready to wean the pigs reduce the sow's feed so that by the time the pigs are weaned she will have only about 2 pounds of grain each day for each 100 pounds of her weight. Keep her on a Bermuda pasture and let her have this ration until she is in good condition. Keep sows in good flesh, but not excessively fat.

Sows can be made to produce two litters each year. When this is desired they should be bred at the first period of heat after the pigs are weaned. Sows bred twice each year will not produce so many pigs in each litter as when bred only once a year, but more pigs should be raised in a year from each sow.

It does not pay to try to raise hogs on grain alone. In fact, the profit in pig raising, especially in the South, depends directly on the amount of pasture of some kind used to enable the pig to make its gain in weight. Of the southern forage crops peanuts, soy beans, rape, and cowpeas are especially valuable. Now, these are not available all through the year, therefore we use a series of crops. For example, have some winter oats on which the sows can be turned as soon as the pigs are a week or two old. When these are gone put the pigs on good Bermuda and lespedeza pasture. Have a crop of soy beans or cowpeas coming and turn the pigs on this after weaning, keeping the sows on the Bermuda. When these are gone put the pigs in a peanut patch, and finish fattening them on rape.

The pigs should be weaned at 10 to 12 weeks of age and should then weigh about 30 pounds. They should have learned to eat a little grain by going to the sow's trough. Then begin to feed them. Give them every day grain equal to 2 per cent of their weight. A pig weighing 30 pounds should have 0.6 pound of grain; 10 pigs of this weight, 6 pounds, etc. Divide this into two feeds, morning and evening. This amount of grain will make them grow nicely on good pasture. As they grow, increase the amount of grain. When they weigh about 125 pounds give them 3 per cent of their weight in grain, and when they weigh about 150 pounds each give them 4 per cent and finish them off, slaughtering in the winter on a cool day. Pigs properly fed should weigh 200 pounds at 9 months old. Do not feed cottonseed meal to hogs.

It is not necessary to spend a lot of money to carry out such a plan. Of course, the Bermuda pasture where the sows are turned should have a good fence. The crops on which the pigs are grazed can be fenced with home-made hurdles of lumber or woven wire, which



may be moved as desired, and the pigs will stay in it while the pasture is good. Ten pigs can be kept on half an acre of one of the crops mentioned above from four to eight weeks, depending on their size.

3. A poor pig is not worth raising or feeding. Your pigs should be sired by a good purebred Duroc-Jersey, Berkshire, or Poland-China boar. After you have decided which of the three you want, stick to the same breed and in a little while you will have pigs which are very much alike, a model for others, and an advertisement for your community. If you can afford it, start with good grade sows. If not, natives (razorbacks) will do. White pigs should not be used in the South, as they sunburn badly.

4. Expensive houses are not necessary for hogs in the South. Give the sow a dry place to farrow, a pen well bedded and sheltered from cold winds and storms, and both she and the pigs will do well. Little pigs that get chilled or wet soon after birth often die or grow into "runts." If there is no suitable place around the farm for the sow, make a lean-to with poles, about 10 by 12 feet, 6 feet high in front and 4 feet high behind, facing it to the south, and thatch it with straw, cheap hay, or even cornstalks, and the litter will be well housed. Make the thatch roof higher in the middle than at the sides and smooth it down so that rain will run off.

Pigs should have shade in the pasture, either trees or artificial shelter, and plenty of water.

#### SANITARY SUGGESTIONS.

No one should attempt to raise hogs unless he is willing to give them good feed, good care, and protect them in every way possible from disease. Worms, hog cholera, lice, and canker sore mouth kill large numbers of hogs throughout the South, especially little pigs.

To prevent worms, keep the following charcoal mixture before the pigs all the time:

Charcoal, 1 bushel.  
Hardwood ashes, 1 bushel.  
Salt, 8 pounds.  
Air-slaked lime, 8 pounds.  
Sulphur, 4 pounds.  
Pulverized copperas, 2 pounds.

First mix the lime, salt, and sulphur thoroughly, and then mix in the charcoal and ashes. Dissolve the copperas in 2 quarts of hot water and sprinkle it over the whole mass, mixing thoroughly. Store this in a barrel under shelter, and keep some of it in an open shallow box where the hogs can get it as they wish.

Hogs will not have cholera unless it is brought to the farm in some way from hogs which are sick. Therefore try to keep buzzards and other birds away from your hogs. Do not visit a farm where hogs are sick or allow the owner of sick hogs to visit yours. Do not keep your hogs near a stream that runs through a farm where there are sick hogs before it gets to yours. Hog cholera may be prevented by proper inoculation. See your county demonstration agent about this.

Watch the hogs, especially the little pigs, to see whether they are lousy. If so, get some disinfectant and wash the pigs with it, or rub

on a mixture of lard and turpentine or lard and kerosene, two parts of lard to one of turpentine or kerosene. Tie a gunny sack around a post where the hogs can rub it, and keep it well soaked with crude oil. If the hogs have a wallowing hole, pour a little crude oil or kerosene on the water.

To prevent canker sore mouth, keep the pens clean and well bedded with fresh, clean straw. Get a pair of bone forceps from the drug store (they will cost 75 cents to \$1), and the day after the little pigs are born clip off the little tusks on the sides of their mouths even with the gums. Do not injure the gums when doing this, and do not pull the tusks out.

Remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Watch to keep disease and vermin away from your hogs. If they get sick in spite of all you can do, get in touch with the county demonstration agent without delay. If there is no agent in your county, write to your State agricultural college for help.

#### PROFIT IN RAISING PIGS.

Two sows should raise 5 pigs each, giving the farmer 10 pigs to slaughter. These pigs should weigh, when slaughtered, 200 pounds each, making 2,000 pounds of live weight. This costs about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound to make in the South under the system described above, which is an original cost of \$70. Killing will cost not over \$6. The loss in dressing is about 30 per cent of the live weight, or 600 pounds on 10 pigs, so that 1,400 pounds of dressed pork is on hand after slaughtering. If you can get a local ice plant to chill and cure the meat for you, the manager should charge not over 4 cents per pound, which is \$56. Then the meat loses weight in curing, amounting to about 1 cent per pound, or \$14. The total cost of the meat is about as follows:

Raising 2,000 pounds, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound-----	\$70
Killing-----	6
Curing 1,400 pounds, at 4 cents per pound-----	56
Shrinkage on 1,400 pounds, at 1 cent per pound-----	14
Total-----	146

You have 1,400 pounds of cured meat on hand which has cost you only a fraction over 10 cents per pound, the surplus of which you can easily sell for 20 cents per pound. Under the circumstances, can you afford to pay 20 cents per pound or more for side meat and ham? Does it not pay you to raise your own pork?

In these suggestions an outline for pig raising is submitted which will require the farmer to spend as little money as possible. The grain and the pasture are raised on the farm. He can kill the hogs and cure the meat himself, and therefore the only direct money outlay required after the hogs are bought is for seed and implements for cultivation and killing, and possibly a small amount needed for fencing.

For those who desire more information on hog raising it is suggested that they write to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for the following Farmers' Bulletins:

- No. 411. Hog Raising in the South.
- No. 438. Hog Houses.